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ICE National Gang Enforcement Report **August 26– September 11**

The Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is pleased to introduce the new *ICE National Gang Enforcement Report*, a bi-monthly summary of enforcement actions resulting from "Operation Community Shield," ICE's ongoing, national anti-gang initiative.

OVERVIEW

ICE launched Operation Community Shield in February 2005 to confront the national problem of violent street gangs. The goals of the initiative are to disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute violent street gangs by employing the full range of authorities and investigative tools available to ICE.

Under this initiative, ICE is employing its broad immigration authorities (both criminal and administrative immigration authorities) against foreign-born gang members. ICE is also employing its broad customs authorities to combat drug trafficking and other crimes committed by these gangs.

In addition, ICE is using its considerable financial investigative expertise to target the financial infrastructure of these criminal organizations and their illegally derived assets.

PARTNER AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Strong partnerships and cooperation with existing local, state, and federal anti-gang efforts are essential to the success of Operation Community Shield.

On September 7, federal agents from ICE partnered with the FBI and other federal, state and local law enforcement as part of an internationally coordinated law enforcement arrest operation that resulted in the arrest of 73 MS-13 gang members throughout the country. ICE agents arrested Thirty-eight (38) of the 73-gang members for ICE violations. Thirty-four (34) subjects are being charged with various state violations and four (4) of the subjects were arrested for federal narcotics (domestic) violations.

These targets were identified by the FBI's MS-13 National Gang Task Force (NGTF).

STATISTICS

Below are statistics on the arrests of gang leaders, gang members, and gang associates. These include arrests on criminal charges as well as arrests on administrative immigration charges.

Arrests

Total to date: 1,326

September 5-11: 44



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Top 10 gangs/by number of arrests

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. MS-13 (707) | 5. Latin Kings (28) | 9. Latin Locos (11) |
| 2. SUR-13 (247) | 6. Vatos Locos (27) | 10. Los Pelones (10) |
| 3. 18 th Street (47) | 7. Mexican Posse (20) | |
| 4. Tortilla Flats (32) | 8. Sombra Negra (15) | |

CASE EXAMPLES

September 15: Long Island – 3 MS-13 Gang Members Nabbed by ICE and LI Gang Task Force

Three dangerous MS-13 gang members were arrested by ICE agents and officers assigned to the Long Island Gang Task Force. Two of those arrested are citizens of El Salvador, while the remaining subject is a citizen of Honduras. Two have prior criminal histories including arrests that range from possession of a firearm and disorderly conduct to possession of a controlled substance and unlawful assembly.

September 16: Columbus, OH – MS-13 Gang Leader Sentenced to 71 Months In Prison

An illegal alien from El Salvador and known MS-13 gang leader was sentenced to 71 months in prison for carrying a concealed weapon, and his guilty plea for Re-entry after Deportation. ICE special agents identified Flores as a violent, previously deported felon gang leader who had been convicted of assault with a deadly weapon, and for participating in a drive-by shooting in Nevada. Re-entering the U.S. after having previously been deported is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison. Columbus Police discovered his criminal background by contacting the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC).

August 30: Atlanta – 3 Gang Members Arrested by ICE, FBI and Clayton County PD

Among the arrested was a 21-year-old citizen of Mexico linked to the Hard Times Sureños gang who admitted to being in the country illegally. Also arrested were 19 and 18-year-old Westside Via Locos gang members. The 18-year-old subject was found with approximately a half pound of marijuana and he has been charged by the Clayton County Police Department with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute. He will be transferred into ICE custody upon the resolution of the drug charges. The remaining two subjects are in ICE custody awaiting their removal from the country.

** Photos and wanted posters of the fugitives are available at www.ice.gov.*

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact ICE Public Affairs, 202-514-2648



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